

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

TYLER STEVEN HOFLAND,

Defendant.

Case No.

PLEA AGREEMENT

Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A) and (B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the United States of America, by its attorneys, Nicholas W. Chase, United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota, and Jonathan J. O'Konek, Assistant United States Attorney; Defendant, TYLER STEVEN HOFLAND; and Defendant's counsel, Allan Caplan, agree to the following:

1. Defendant acknowledges the Information charges a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1344 and 2.
2. Defendant has read the Charge and Defendant's attorney has fully explained the Charge to Defendant.
3. Defendant fully understands the nature and elements of the charged crime.
4. Defendant will voluntarily plead guilty to the Sole Count of the Information (**Aiding and Abetting Bank Fraud**). Defendant acknowledges and understands that pursuant to the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Rule 6 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Defendant has the right to have this matter presented to a Grand Jury to determine whether probable cause exists that Defendant has

committed the alleged crime. Defendant will, pursuant to Rule 7(b) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, waive prosecution by Indictment and voluntarily plead guilty to the count as contained in the Information.

5. The parties agree this Plea Agreement shall be filed as part of the Court record and be governed by Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c). The parties specifically agree that Rule 11(c)(1)(C) does not apply. If the United States makes the non-binding recommendations specified in this Plea Agreement, then Defendant acknowledges that this agreement will have been fulfilled. Except as provided in Rule 11(c)(5), the Court's refusal to accept any or all terms of the Plea Agreement does not give Defendant a right to withdraw Defendant's guilty plea.

6. Defendant will plead guilty because Defendant is in fact guilty of the Charge. In pleading guilty to the Sole Count, Defendant acknowledges that:

1. The Charge. Between on or about June 12, 2019, and on or about December 19, 2019, in the District of North Dakota, TYLER STEVEN HOFLAND, knowingly aided and abetted Brady Torgerson in the crime of Bank Fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1344, who defrauded First Security Bank – West (FSB-W) and obtained money from FSB-W by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, with TYLER STEVEN HOFLAND having known that the offense of Bank Fraud, was being committed or going to be committed by Brady Torgerson, and with TYLER STEVEN HOFLAND having had enough advance knowledge of the extent and character of this offense of Bank Fraud that he was able to make the relevant choice to walk away from the offense of Bank Fraud before all elements of the offense of Bank Fraud were complete;

Specifically, Tyler Hofland aided and abetted Brady Torgerson in executing a scheme to:

(1) defraud FSB-W, a financial institution, whose deposits were insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and

(2) obtain any of the money, funds, assets, and other property owned by, and under the custody and control of FSB-W, a financial institution, whose deposits were insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises;

2. The Scheme: Tyler Hofland sent communications to Brady Torgerson, President of FSB-W, requesting that Brady Torgerson send money belonging to FSB-W to other individuals to pay off a debt. Specifically, Tyler Hofland, who had a business relationship with Brady Torgerson, requested that Brady Torgerson pay Tyler Hofland's relatives an amount of \$98,163.40 utilizing FSB-W funds. On June 12, 2019, Tyler Hofland sent an email to Brady Torgerson with the subject line "House" stating that his mother-in-law and father-in-law would agree to purchase real property so long as Tyler Hofland was able to "Put 20% down on the property" and "[p]ay Brienne's aunt and uncle back for loaning [Tyler Hofland] money for the bad checks, which is hanging out at approximately \$96,758." On November 6, 2021, Tyler Hofland sent Brady Torgerson an email with the subject line "Loan Amount," informing Brady Torgerson that "the amount needed to satisfy the loan to Fran and Alan Rodenburg is \$98,163.40." On or about December 19, 2019, Brady Torgerson issued an FSB-W Money Order, number 4468346829, in the amount of \$98,163.40, with the remitter listed as Roy Hofland, Tyler Hofland's father, and payable to Alan Rodenburg, who was the individual who received this money order.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1344 and 2.

Defendant acknowledges that his conduct satisfies all the elements of Aiding and Abetting Bank Fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2 and 1344 as alleged in the Sole Count of the Information and that this court has jurisdiction over this matter.

7. Defendant understands the following maximum penalties apply:

Sole Count

Imprisonment:	30 years
Fine:	\$1,000,000
Supervised Release:	5 years
Special Assessment:	\$100

Defendant agrees to pay the Clerk of United States District Court the special assessment on or before the day of sentencing.

8. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty Defendant surrenders rights, including:

(a) The right to a speedy public jury trial and related rights as follow:

(i) A jury would be composed of twelve (12) lay persons selected at random. Defendant and Defendant's attorney would help choose the jurors by removing prospective jurors "for cause," where actual bias or other disqualification is shown; or by removing jurors without cause by exercising so-called peremptory challenges. The jury would have to agree unanimously before it could return a verdict. The jury would be instructed that Defendant is presumed innocent and that it could not return a guilty verdict unless it found Defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

(ii) If a trial were held without a jury, then the Judge would find the facts and determine whether Defendant was guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

(iii) At a trial, whether by a jury or Judge, the United States is required to present witness testimony and other evidence against Defendant. Defendant's attorney can confront and examine them. In turn, the defense can present witness testimony and other evidence. If witnesses for Defendant refuse to appear voluntarily, Defendant can require their attendance through the subpoena power of the Court.

(iv) At trial, Defendant has a privilege against self-incrimination; thus, Defendant can decline to testify. No inference of guilt can be drawn from Defendant's refusal to testify. Defendant can choose to testify, but cannot be required to testify.

(b) Defendant has a right to remain silent. However, under terms of the Plea Agreement, the Judge will likely ask Defendant questions about Defendant's criminal conduct to ensure that there is a factual basis for Defendant's plea.

9. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty Defendant is giving up all of the rights set forth in the prior paragraph, and there will be no trial. Defendant's attorney has explained those rights, and consequences of Defendant's waiver.

10. The Court shall impose a sentence sufficient to comply with purposes set forth in the Sentencing Reform Act. In doing so, the Court shall consider factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), and must consult and take into account the United States' Sentencing Commission, Guidelines Manual, (Nov. 2018) (USSG). Defendant understands that the United States Attorney's Office will fully apprise the District Court and the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office of the nature, scope, and extent of Defendant's conduct, including all matters in aggravation and mitigation relevant to the issue of sentencing. The United States expressly reserves the right to appeal from an unreasonable sentence.

11. This Plea Agreement is binding only upon the United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota. It does not bind any United States Attorney outside the District of North Dakota, nor does it bind any state or local prosecutor. They remain free

to prosecute Defendant for any offenses under their jurisdiction. This Plea Agreement also does not bar or compromise any civil or administrative claim.

12. Defendant understands the United States Attorney reserves the right to notify any local, state, or federal agency by whom Defendant is licensed, or with whom Defendant does business, of Defendant's conviction.

13. The parties agree that the base offense level under the Sentencing Guidelines for Defendant's conduct is 7. (USSG § 2B1.1(a)(1)).

14. The parties agree that the following upward adjustments are applicable in this case:

- + 8. Loss of More than \$95,000. (USSG § 2B1.1(b)(1)(E)).

15. The parties agree that the following downward adjustments are applicable in this case:

- None other than acceptance of responsibility as noted below.

16. At sentencing, United States agrees to recommend a 2-level downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility, provided Defendant has demonstrated a genuine acceptance of responsibility. (USSG § 3E1.1(a)).

17. Neither the Court nor the Probation Office is a party to the Plea Agreement. Neither the Court nor the Probation Office is bound by the Plea Agreement as to determining the Sentencing Guideline range. The Court may depart from the applicable guidelines range if the Court, on the record, states factors not contemplated by the Sentencing Guidelines' Commission to justify the departure. Both parties reserve the

right to object to any departure. See USSG § 1B1.1, comment. (n.1) (defines “departure”). There may be other adjustments the parties have not agreed upon.

18. At sentencing, the United States will:

(a) Recommend a sentence at the low end of the applicable Guideline range;

(b) Recommend that Defendant be ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$98,163.40, joint and severable with Brady Torgerson. Defendant agrees to recommend payment of this restitution amount. The court is not bound by this recommendation;

(c) Recommend that Defendant be ordered to pay the \$100 special assessment;

(d) Agree to not charge the defendant with any additional counts of Bank Fraud or Bankruptcy Fraud, which occurred between January 1, 2019 and January 1, 2021 involving First Security Bank-West.

Defendant may recommend any sentence, including any departure or variance from the sentencing guideline range that Defendant believes is appropriate.

19. Defendant acknowledges and understands that if Defendant violates any term of this Plea Agreement, engages in any further criminal activity, or fails to appear for sentencing, the United States will be released from its commitments. In that event, this Plea Agreement shall become null and void, in whole or in part, at the discretion of the United States, and Defendant will face the following consequences: (1) all testimony

and other information Defendant has provided at any time to attorneys, employees, or law enforcement officers of the government, to the Court, or to the Federal Grand Jury, may be used against Defendant in any prosecution or proceeding; and (2) the United States will be entitled to reinstate previously dismissed charges and/or pursue additional charges against Defendant and to use any information obtained directly or indirectly from Defendant in those additional prosecutions. Nothing in this agreement prevents the United States from prosecuting Defendant for perjury, false statement(s), or false declaration(s), if Defendant commits such acts in connection with this agreement or otherwise.

20. Defendant acknowledges the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2259 and 3663A, which require the Court to order restitution. Defendant agrees to pay restitution as may be ordered by the Court. Defendant acknowledges and agrees that the Court will order Defendant to make restitution for all loss caused by Defendant's conduct, regardless of whether counts of the Indictment will be dismissed as part of this Plea Agreement. Defendant further agrees to grant the United States a wage assignment, liquidate assets, or complete any other tasks the Court finds reasonable and appropriate for the prompt payment of any restitution or fine ordered by the Court.

21. The United States will file a Supplement in this case, as is routinely done in every case, even though there may or may not be any additional terms. Defendant and Defendant's attorney acknowledge that no threats, promises, or representations exist beyond the terms of this Plea Agreement.

22. **Defendant's Waiver of Appeal.** Defendant acknowledges having been advised by counsel of Defendant's rights to appeal the conviction or sentence in this case, including the appeal right conferred by 18 U.S.C. § 3742, and to challenge the conviction or sentence collaterally through post-conviction proceedings, including proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 2255. Defendant understands these rights, and in exchange for the concessions made by the United States in this plea agreement, Defendant hereby knowingly and voluntarily waives these rights, except as specifically reserved herein. Defendant's waiver of these rights includes, but is not limited to, a waiver of all rights to appeal or to collaterally attack: Defendant's conviction or sentence; all non-jurisdictional issues; any assessment, restitution or forfeiture order; the constitutionality of the applicable guidelines; and the constitutionality of the statute(s) to which Defendant is pleading guilty or under which Defendant is sentenced, or to argue that the admitted conduct does not fall within the scope of the statute(s). Defendant reserves the right to appeal a sentence of imprisonment imposed above the upper end of the applicable guidelines range and the right to appeal or to collaterally attack the conviction or sentence based on a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel that challenges the validity of the guilty plea or this waiver.

23. By signing this Plea Agreement, Defendant further specifically waives Defendant's right to seek to withdraw Defendant's plea of guilty, pursuant to Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 11(d), once the plea has been entered in accordance with this agreement. The appellate court will enforce such waivers. Defendant agrees that any

attempt to withdraw Defendant's plea will be denied and any appeal of such denial should be dismissed.

24. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty he will be convicted, and that any individual convicted who is not a United States citizen may be removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied admission to the United States in the future. Defendant's attorney has explained this consequence of his guilty plea.

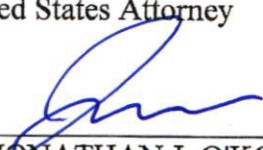
25. The Assistant United States Attorney and attorney for Defendant agree to abide by the provisions of Rule 32(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. The attorneys acknowledge their obligation to use good-faith efforts to resolve any disputes regarding the Presentence Investigation Report (PSIR) through a presentence conference or other informal procedures.

26. Defendant acknowledges reading and understanding all provisions of the Plea Agreement. Defendant and Defendant's attorney have discussed the case and reviewed the Plea Agreement. They have discussed Defendant's constitutional and other rights, including, but not limited to, Defendant's plea-statement rights under Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence and Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.


AGREED:

NICHOLAS W. CHASE
United States Attorney

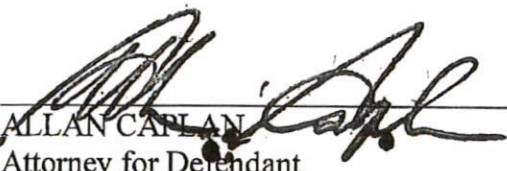
Dated: 3/15/2022


By: JONATHAN J. O'KONEK
Assistant United States Attorney

Dated: 3/15/2022


TYLER STEVEN HOFLAND
Defendant

Dated: 3/15/22


ALLAN CAPLAN
Attorney for Defendant